

Applicants hereby aver that claim 24 reads on the species identified by the Examiner as "E" as illustrated in Fig. 14 (and Fig. 15) and elected by the Applicants on 30 July 2001. Accordingly, pending claims 1, 8 and 24 read on the elected species. Applicants also submit that pending claim 8 is generic to the pending claims 13-15 and 19-20.⁷²

CONCLUSION

In view of the above arguments, Applicants respectfully request that the application be reexamined and reconsidered, that claims 1, 7-8, 13-15, 19-20 and 24 be allowed, and that the application pass to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 14 March 2002

By: 

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